

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on September 6, 2006, claims 1-64 were rejected, and claims 65-93 were allowed. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-93 remain pending. Applicant request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

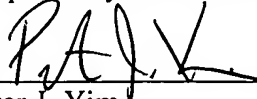
Claims 1-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the head node, deformation nodes, and tail node are embodied in computer-readable media. Thus, Applicants assert that claim 1 and claims 2-64, which depend from claim 1, are directed to statutory subject matter.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 590282000500. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: November 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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